



CA-11 DMAT



Sacramento Disaster Medical Assistance Team

Volume 1, Number 6, September 2002



Message from the CA-11 President

As we approach the first anniversary of 9-11, I look back at all we have accomplished as a team and the solemn mission we have committed to fulfill for our country and our fellow Americans. It's worth pausing to contemplate how much has happened since our first meeting in January 2001. At that meeting Anne Bybee introduced interested professionals from the community to the concept of a DMAT that would be organized in the Sacramento area. We immediately formed a management development committee, wrote and revised suggested bylaws and established a plan for creating a non-profit corporation that would become CA-11.

When the cowardly sneak attack on America occurred on 9-11 it stiffened our resolve and intensified our commitment to become a deployable team. We have worked diligently to ready ourselves to respond to any mission our nation calls upon us to deploy for. Though we only became a level 3 team in October 2001 we are now poised to become certified as a fully deployable response team. Other teams in development around the country are watching our example to see how they can fast track themselves to deployable status as well. I am very proud to be the President and a founding member of such a dedicated and professional group of individuals. We are the strength and spirit of America.

Michael Zabiegalski
President CA-11

Upcoming Event Schedule

October 17, 19:00 - General Meeting

October 19-20, Camp Sacramento at Cal Expo

Directions to General Meetings:

10173 Croydon Way, #4, Rancho Cordova

Take the Mother Field Road exit off of US 50 and head north, towards Folsom Blvd.. Turn Left on Croyton Way.

Team Website: http://www.emsa.ca.gov/DMAT_CA11/test_sacdmata_ca11.asp



A DMAT Treatment Room Near Ground Zero



9/11 Blood Bank Emergency Communications

By Jim Rich, CA-11 DMAT Secretary

Since 1993, I have led a group of Amateur Radio volunteers who provide emergency communications for California's blood banks. When I learned of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, I phoned Richard Kayser, an official with the Sacramento Blood Center and the California Blood Bank Society. He told me they were unable to contact New York Blood Center in Manhattan by telephone, and asked me to try to reach them using my ham radio. He gave me NYBC's address and phone numbers.

I switched to the antenna for the best band of frequencies to use to reach NYBC, tuned my High Frequency radio to that band, and then realized I hadn't the foggiest idea what frequency to use or who to call. All the CBBS and EMSA drills I have participated in involved mock disasters within California. So I tuned around the radio dial on the 20 meters band until I came across an emergency radio net, SATERN, established by the Salvation Army. I told the SATERN net I had a priority message for the New York Blood Center from a California blood bank official: "How many units of what types of blood products do you need? What would be the best local airfield to use?"

Amateur Radio operators from around the country made relaying SBC's message their top priority. A New York City ham called the phone numbers for the NYBC, but could not get through. There was no phone service or Amateur Radio operator at the Manhattan blood center. So one was quickly dispatched to NYBC, with Richard's message, and a portable HF Amateur Radio station. While this was happening, other CBBS communications volunteers came on the air to help. We soon received a disquieting message from the SATERN net: The

Manhattan Blood Center was fairly close to the World Trade Center. The streets were jammed with panicked motorists and pedestrians fleeing the area into which the ham radio volunteer was heading. So he had to abandon his car, and was now slowly heading "upstream" to the blood center, hauling his heavy radio gear with him, and reporting in via his handheld VHF radio.



That determined ham finally made it to NYBC and set up his radio station. A reply message soon came back to Richard Kayser via the SATERN net: the NYBC needed 200 units of O positive blood. SBC blood was quickly packed for shipment. Richard worked with EMSA and the military to ship the requested blood products to NYBC via a military transport out of Travis AFB. He needed to contact officials at Blood Centers of America (BCA) in Warwick, RI, so they could coordinate the movement of the blood shipment. However, he could not reach them by telephone. So he phoned me with a message for a BCA official, and asked me to relay it via Amateur Radio.

The SATERN hams located a ham radio operator who lived near Warwick, and who could take a radio and a message to BCA. He reached BCA and relayed the message. Soon SBC and BCA officials were discussing the best way to get the California blood to where it was most needed.

CBBS and SATERN ham radio volunteers maintained the blood bank radio net until 2225 PDST, when telephone communications had been firmly established with BCA and NYBC. Since September 11, I have been helping blood bank and federal officials prepare an emergency communications plan for America's blood banks. We must be better prepared next time.



A Message From The CA-11 Unit Commander

David Sprenger

The approach of the one year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America, is certain to cause many of us to relive some of the feelings that we had one year ago. In the hours and days following the morning of September 11, 2001, most of us experienced shock, horror, sadness, fear, confusion, and insecurity, amongst others feelings. However, at the same time, as a result of feeling attacked, most Americans drew together. We began taking stock in the values that define us as Americans, and found that our strength runs deep. Our strength stems from our common concern for one another, for our communities, and for our Nation.

Love and concern for our country took a variety of forms from various people. Some prayed. Some flew American flags. Others displayed patriotic bumper stickers. Caring and concern for each other expanded and compounded. Many turned feeling into determination, and determination into action.

The Sacramento Regional DMAT Inc., CA-11, presents the opportunity to channel those high human ideals and dogged determination into valuable service to our community and our Nation. We have achieved much toward the development of a fully deployable team, but much still remains to be done. We need to continue to refine our lines of communication within our team, and without. We need to continue recruitment efforts in several positions, so that not only are all the operational positions filled, but also, all of the support, and leadership positions. We need to develop our fundraising, and our community service capacities.

As members of DMAT CA-11, we have much for which to be thankful, and much for which to be proud. As Unit Commander, I thank all those who have shown an interest in our team, and as a result have shown an interest in making our Nation stronger.



Additional Funding Needed

Financial stability is one of the basic elements to the overall success of an organization. This stability is generally seen in the business world as the ability to pay the current bills of the company with revenue currently being generated. Basically, increase revenue by additional sales to cover current expenses.

This elementary process works well in the business world, but what about a non-profit corporation organized to serve the needs of our country. We do not have the ability to develop additional revenue through increased

sales. Instead, we rely on the generous contributions of our team sponsors, local, state and federal government agencies, businesses within our local community and private individuals. The costs associated with the initial organization, development and ongoing support of a fully deployable DMAT unit are enormous. Each unit is designed to be self-sufficient and all of the equipment and supplies necessary for responsiveness to a call for immediate deployment needs to be purchased and maintained by teams of volunteers.

With the generous financial commitments of our team sponsors, the California EMSA and the Sutter Health organization, together with the funding provided by the federal Office of Emergency Preparedness and donations by members of our management team, we have begun to secure the equipment and material to reach the level of a fully deployable operational DMAT. The financial burden associated with supporting our organization continues. Additional funds need to be secured in order to maintain and replenish our equipment and supplies. Our fund raising committee is in need of your help in identifying potential sponsors and contributors. If you can help, please contact our fund raising committee chairman, Terry Motshenbacher, for further information.

Recently, we received our letter of determination from the Internal Revenue Service qualifying DMAT CA11 as a non-profit corporation under section 503(c)3 of the current tax code. Contributions made by businesses or individuals are considered to be tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

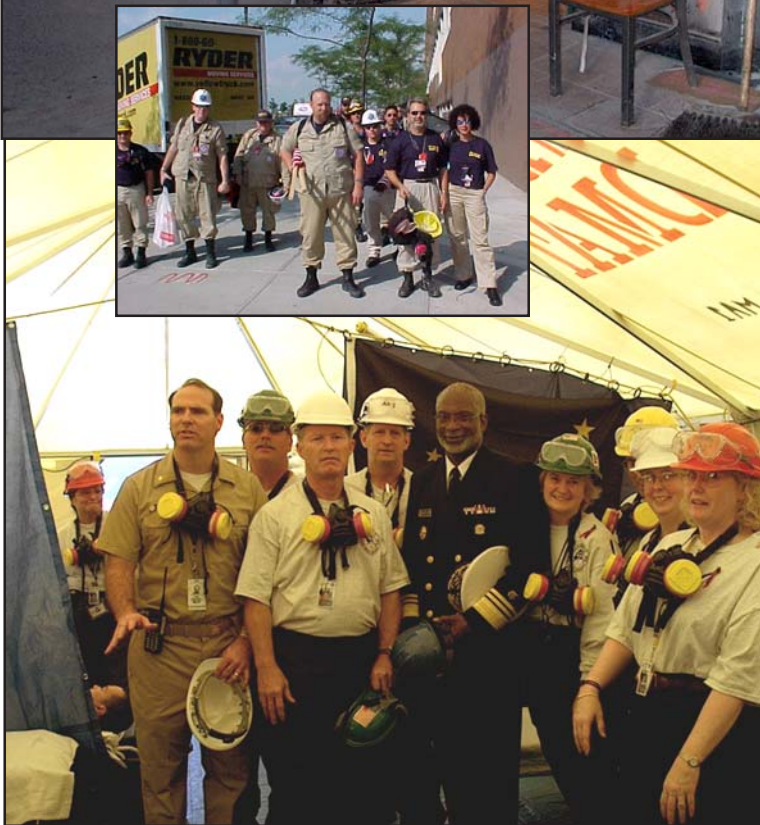


Jim Sachs Receives an Award as Paramedic of the Year from American Medical

Thoughts on September 11th

My initial response to Kelly's request to write a piece for the newsletter was, "I don't have anything to offer, besides I'm too busy". In reflecting upon it however, I realize that these words are the antithesis of the reasons I belong to CA-11 – a commitment that was reinforced on September 11, 2001. On that day I watched with the nation the horror unfolding in New York City. I felt helpless, and I know I was not alone in that feeling. Participating in CA-11 was important before September 11, and since has provided a venue for responding to the tragedy, taking positive action and continuing to make a difference in our community. We can be proud that, as we approach the first anniversary, CA-11 has already deployed members – to NYC & fires in California – and will soon be deployable as a team.

Team Member Virginia Hass



DMAT Members pose with Surgeon General Satcher

Transcription Session Scheduled

We are offering a Transcription Day at 10:00 am on Saturday, September 21st at the new Warehouse. (This is where individuals can gather up all of their immunization and titer records and we are transcribing them on to their yellow Travel Immunization Card that will be filed with the Administration Officer) If anyone in Operations wants to show up earlier at 9:00 a.m. That day to learn how to transcribe records, we are offering a Transcription Orientation for DMAT Transcribers that will be needed to volunteer Saturday or at other DMAT gatherings in the future.

Watching the news on September 11th, I was reminded of my grand parents. On December 7th, they feared their only son's fate aboard USS West Virginia. Long distance phone calls were an unrealized dream. Since all his possessions went down with the ship. He had no money to send a telegram and a letter would take over two weeks to reach Washington, DC. Due to some fortunate happenstance, a friend of my grand father recognized Ensign Victor Delano. Through military channels, my grandfather received information about my father's survival of the sneak attack. In those days, everyone received the bad news quickly. The good news took a while to get there.

On September 11th, I was able to call family and friends, in Alexandria, VA. and bankers in New York City. I knew close friends were safe. On January 10th, I received an email from a high school friend. Richard "Woody" Woodwell had been working on the 86th floor of Tower II had not been as fortunate as my father. He had not been a close friend, but I knew him as my class president, a good person, and someone very willing to help others. What caught my attention in our "modern" times was the end of an adage, "No news is good news." I serve in DMAT, because I wish to help people. As I was hurt and dismayed by the events of September 11th, I refuse to bow to my anger. I will not put a limit on whom that I might help.

Anonymous



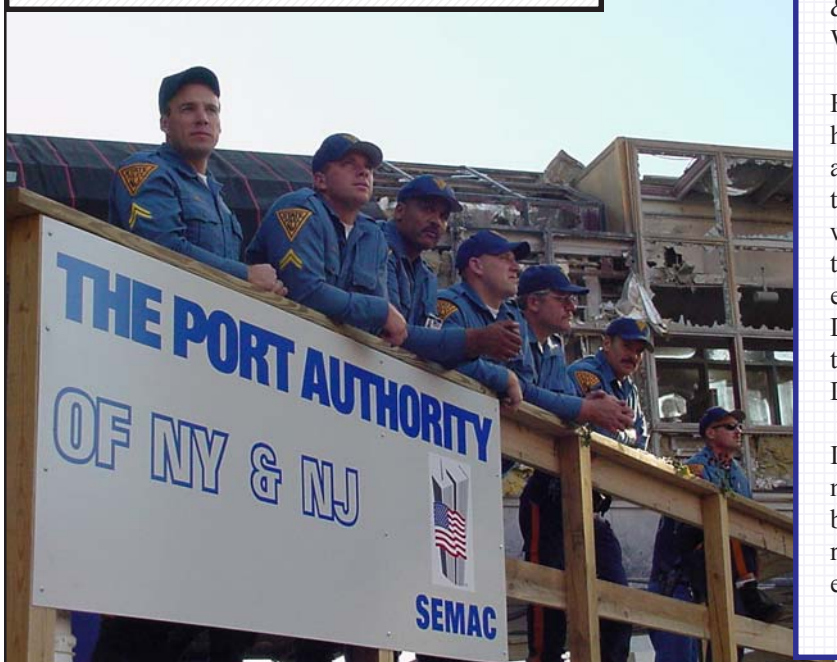
My Reason for Joining DMAT

*Robert Thomas, Medical Supply Specialist
Deputy Chief of Operations*

I was at the tire store getting my car worked on that somber September day. I was shocked, horrified and upset. I had special friends in New York, some near the World Trade Center. The lines were busy, cell phones unreachable, and eventually, many days later, everyone was accounted for, safe & sound. Watching the calamity and listening to the tribute songs on the radio, brought back the same feelings of reading the names of my fallen medical brothers & sisters on the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington, DC— I wept.

Having been a US Navy Hospital Corpsman/EMT, I had seen my share of death & dying, but sometimes a situation just rocks your world. 9-11 was one of that day and weeks for me. I felt helpless and wanted to do more than just donate blood. I called the Sacramento Metro Fire non-emergent line one evening. The dispatcher referred me to EMSA and DMAT. Later that week I chatted with someone at the EMSA office and found out when the next DMAT meeting was. The rest, as they say, is history.

I hope that something of the scope of New York never happens again, but I know that because of being a part of CA-11 and the training I am receiving, I will be prepared to be of service, where ever duty calls.



What is a COMMO UNIT?

The Communications unit (Commo) has been organized into three specialized sub-units by Commo Chief Bruce Hilliard. Randy Jennings leads the amateur radio branch, Ken Peterson heads up the computer/LAN team and Jim Holtzman operates the NDMS radio group. All three groups are staffed by dedicated volunteers that will be cross trained to handle field contingencies during deployment.

The amateur radio group utilizes FCC licensed operators to work the amateur radio or "Ham" bands for local and long range communications. The long range communications will be particularly useful for communications back to Sacramento when we are deployed to a disaster region that lacks telephone/internet services. This month we secured HF (long range radio) equipment for our new warehouse for use as a base for field communications. This equipment, coupled with internet computers, will give us up to date information to CA-11's Sacramento base during deployments.

The computer/LAN group will handle the set up of the telephones, computer work stations, software and other peripheral equipment at the DMAT/MST HQ.

And last, but not least, the NDMS radio unit will handle the set up, distribution and operations of handheld radios used for disaster communications by our team members.

We encourage CA-11 members to join our teams. During a deployment we will need not only field staff but volunteers for the Sacramento warehouse to handle incoming radio and internet traffic as well.

Team Officers

Unit Team Commander - David Sprenger M.D.
President - Mike Zabiegalski
Vice-President - VACANT
Secretary - Jim Rich
Treasurer - Bill Bohmer
Plans Chief - VACANT
Operations Chief - Terry Motschenbacher
Logistics Chief - Cary Chavez
Administrative Officer - Sheila Martin
Training Officer - Gordon Worley
Threat Assessment Officer - Barry Burrows
Public Information Officer - Kelly Scot Moore
Newsletter - Robert Newsad



An Oklahoma DMAT near Ground Zero

Reflections on Sept. 11th

Julie Hamilton

While most of us, if not all, will look back on 11th Sept., 2001 as one of those "Where were you when..." moments, as I look back to the events that of last year, I find myself introspective; not only do I observe how I responded, but I also look at what I am doing differently with the rest of my life because of what happened on that day.

I am more keenly aware of time, and what a precious commodity it truly is. As I rush about trying to cram one more task into my waking hours, I pause and think, "Will this be of any importance one year from today?" If I cannot answer "Yes" for one year (or one month or whatever time frame), then I feel my internal compass gently steering me in another direction. I do smile more, and also look for opportunities to lift someone else's burden, if only for a short time. When I take an assessment at the end of each day, and journal what things I've learned, I want to be able to know that I have exchanged the last 24 hours of my life for experiences, opportunities and education that were truly worth the expenditure.

Although no one would wish the events that we witnessed to come upon anyone, it is amazing to me that out of so much evil, so much good may spring forth. I think the following quote sums up our work with the DMAT, and what I have seen many of us personify in our day to day lives: "Good and evil deeds are not alike. Repel evil with what is good; then he who is your enemy will become your bosom friend." Koran, 41:34